



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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McNary pool levels to lower Nov. 27; boaters cautioned

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – River levels on the upstream side of McNary Lock and Dam will temporarily operate at 335-335.5 feet mean sea level between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations officials announced today.

Lake Wallula, the pool area of the Columbia River, upstream of McNary Dam, near Umatilla, Ore., will require the low-pool level so a contractor can remove instrumentation used in fish-related studies at the south fish ladder of McNary Dam, located at Columbia River mile 292 near Umatilla, Ore. The instrumentation was placed in February by NOAA Fisheries.

Over the next several days, McNary pool will be gradually lowered to 337 feet MSL elevation. On Saturday, Nov. 25, the pool will be lowered further to the 335-335.5 feet elevation necessary for the scheduled work to begin Monday at 7 a.m. As soon as the instrumentation has been removed, McNary pool will be gradually filled to reach 337 feet MSL by Wednesday, Nov. 29, and return to current pool levels by Friday, Dec. 1. For reference, to date during November, the average tailrace elevation at Ice Harbor was 340.27 feet MSL and the average forebay elevation at McNary was 338.74 feet MSL.

Corps officials advise river users to be aware of the potential hazards associated with changes in river elevations, including, but not limited to, the following cautions:

Commercial vessels – At lower than typical pool (below 337 feet MSL) beware of less than 14 feet draft in some areas of the Ice Harbor Cut.

Recreational craft – If docked in this area, boat owners should ensure their vessels are located in deep enough water to avoid damage as the river level lowers. Also, a boater pulling their vessel ashore during low pool could find their boat back in the water when the river levels return to current conditions once work is completed.

For more information, please call the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020.

Public notices and other navigation lock information are available on the Walla Walla District Web site at: www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/t/navdata/default.html. For more information about the District's anadromous fish research, check out www.nww.usace.army.mil/planning/ep/fishres/newmain.html.

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